



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand was seasonally light to moderate, best into food service channels with some areas reporting improvements for the approaching holiday weekend. Supplies were adequate to fully sufficient. In the parts structure, wings were balanced to tight with good movement, breast items were adequate to ample with slow clearance, and dark meat items were mostly balanced with fair demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 58.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.50 cents last year on the 30th of December, 1998.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
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BREASTS - B/S	135.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	69.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	73.00
LEG QUARTERS	20.00
WINGS	78.00

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 12/25/99	1999	1998
EGGS SET	179,837	179,725
CHICKS PLACED	143,549	139,166

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 180 million eggs during the week ending December 25, 1999. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 144 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 25, 1999. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week in 1998. Cumulative placements from January 3, 1999, through December 25, 1999, were 7.26 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 5-Feb-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.5 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 151.6 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 151.0 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 153.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 58.43 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Offerings adequate overall. Buying activity was light. Demand was fair for whole body and fairly good for parts, best by fast food and to cover limited feature activities. Floor stocks adequate. Parts about steady with bone-in breasts in the weakest position.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Movement was fair at best with mixed opinions for next week's demand. Supplies were at least sufficient for current trade needs. In the parts structure, wings were balanced and receiving increased interest. Breast items were adequate to heavily supplied and slowly clearing, and dark meat items were balanced and moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Whole fryer trade sentiment mostly steady. Whole fryer offerings adequate for the light buyers needs. Retail demand was seasonally slow. Food service movement was slow to moderate with some spots reporting improvement for the upcoming holiday weekend. Floor stocks were adequate to instances fully adequate. Sizes were desirable. Supplies of wings in close balance, breast items fully adequate, leg quarters adequate. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on wings, steady to barely steady on breast items, leg quarters steady.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained light. Offerings of lighter birds were more than adequate and larger sizes were usually adequate to meet limited trade needs. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was fair at best. The market tone was generally steady. In the parts market, breast items were mostly weak and the balance of items were about steady.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly light to instances fair. Offerings were adequate on the heavier sizes, fully adequate on smaller sizes. Live supplies were moderate, with weights ranging light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 55 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was generally steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breast were fully adequate to ample. Wings were in close balance to tight. Leg items were about adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	54-67
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	58.42
NO. OF BOXES	9,770

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DECEMBER 28, 1999

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 29, 1999

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	599	125.00-178.00	130-135	133.28
TENDERLOINS	118	121.00-170.00	130-135	133.81
BREAST - LINE RUN	112	63.00-71.00	63-65	64.14
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	86	25.00-34.00	25-27	25.63
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	939	15.50-19.00	16-17	16.24
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,408	17.50-21.00	20	19.55
WINGS (WHOLE)	165	72.00-77.00	72-75	74.20
WINGS (CUT)	410	80.00-90.00	85-87	85.88
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	49	24.00-34.00	-	25.84
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR DECEMBER 28, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
37.75 - 41.00	38.87

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	599	125.00-178.00	130-135	133.23
TENDERLOINS	162	121.00-200.00	130-135	167.53
BREAST - LINE RUN	176	63.00-70.50	63-65	66.41
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	46	26.00-34.00	26-28	27.04
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	459	15.50-19.00	16-17	16.19
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,248	17.50-21.00	20	19.84
WINGS (WHOLE)	62	75.00-77.00	-	75.71
WINGS (CUT)	470	80.00-96.00	85-87	85.96
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR DECEMBER 29, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
35.75 - 39.50	37.10	38.99

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was slow as most buyers expressed much caution in purchasing product due to the limited demand. Offerings were adequate to available with breast items still in the longest position. Retail and distributive movement was only fair and no significant improvement was expected for the end of the week. The market tone was generally weak on breast items, especially bone-in breasts, and steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL

TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

DECEMBER 28, 1999	CURRENT NEG	WTD	
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	125-130	130.75	639,440
TENDERLOINS	125	125.30	82,080
BREAST - WITH RIBS	55-56	65.72	163,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	55	52.70	151,920
LEGS	26-27	29.07	325,260
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.55	268,772
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.82	103,790
THIGHS	21-22	27.39	77,560
B/S THIGHS	70-71	71.21	47,280
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	80.53	215,160
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.08	42,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	36.45	26,165
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	63.78	63,330

DECEMBER 29, 1999	CURRENT NEG	WTD	
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	125-130	132.71	526,080
TENDERLOINS	125	125.52	114,970
BREAST - WITH RIBS	54-55	65.58	164,360
BREAST - LINE RUN	54	48.82	146,600
LEGS	26-27	30.43	288,540
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	19.10	433,577
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	32.35	106,310
THIGHS	21-22	30.07	47,200
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.97	44,240
WINGS (WHOLE)	72-73	81.33	245,280
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	43,920
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.22	47,480
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.28	73,440

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG	AVG
	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/24
ALA	3,790	3,880	3,898	(A) 5.19
ARK	5,139	4,916	5,224	(A) 5.01
DELMARVA	2,490	2,462	2,473	Holiday 5.23
KY-LA-TN	1,950	1,891	1,806	(A) 4.69
MISS	2,757	3,755	2,781	Holiday 5.15
NC	2,441	2,538	2,542	Holiday 5.23
TEXAS	2,218	2,223	2,096	(A) 4.94
TOTAL	20,785	21,665	19,635	5.08
MON-WED	60,741	(A)		58,650

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 29-Dec 99 is estimated to be 31,097,000 up 6.82 percent from a week ago and up 3.7 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,112,000; last year 30,001,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	88
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	309
RABBITS-CUT UP	326

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-98
	DRY PACK	104
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	98
DUCKS		149-162

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 01-Jan-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	01/01/00 (1)	12/25/99
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	124,759 (2)	120,987
LT HENS	1,582	1,717
HVY HENS	1,093	1,170
TOTAL	127,434	123,874

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 01-Jan-00 is 140.4 million head compared to 127.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 126.3 million head or 14.1 million less than estimated available. For week of 08-Jan-00 the estimated available is 144.3 million head.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT

(IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/27/99	12/20/99	12/28/98	12/27/99	12/20/99	12/28/98
PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES	5,809	6,546	15,239	13,056	13,329	7,140
	131	203	219	3,884	4,105	486

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 12/28/99

	LO	HI	AVG		LO	HI	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.15	.75	.56	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.45	.50	.47	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.55	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	1.00	1.35	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.70	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	.90	-
BROILERS lb.	.45	.70	.62	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	.60	.80	.73	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	.95	-	PULLETS ea.	4.50	6.00	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	1.25	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.60	1.00	.74	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	.40	.70	.55	GEESE ea.	-	5.00	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.35	1.10	.71	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.10	1.30	.83	RABBITS ea.	.40	1.50	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.50	2.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	5.00	8.25	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	2.25	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 107

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 1999

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		60-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 24, 1999

	Whole <u>Chickens</u>	<u>Breasts</u>	Legs <u>W/ Thighs</u>	Necks, Backs <u>& Wings</u>	Livers/ <u>Gizzards</u>	<u>Hens</u>
RAYON						
Low	57.97	125.60	77.29	24.15	5.80	53.14
High	58.94	135.26	86.95	28.98	7.25	53.14
Mostly	57.97	135.26	86.95	28.98	7.25	53.14

SAN JUAN

Low	56.04	106.28	65.22	24.15	7.25	48.31
High	62.80	120.77	82.12	33.82	9.66	48.31
Mostly	57.97	111.11	72.46	26.57	8.21	48.31

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	57.97	120.77	72.46	24.15	5.80	53.14
High	58.94	135.26	86.95	28.98	7.25	53.14
Mostly	57.97	135.26	86.95	24.15	7.25	53.14

BECERRA

Low	57.00	106.28	67.63	26.57	4.83	70.05
High	59.90	125.60	77.29	36.23	9.66	70.05
Mostly	57.97	115.94	72.46	28.98	7.25	70.05

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